

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 070400Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8820

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 0352

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB

SUBJ: REPORT OF SIHANOUK SWEDISH TELEVISION INTERVIEW

REFS: FBIS OKINAWA #0420 0062211

1. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO DRAW DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO AN AFP ITEM DATEDILED STOCKHOLM, JANUARY 6, WHICH READS:
BEGIN QUOTE.

2. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT IN PHNOM PENH ARE PREPARED TO JOIN THE KHMER UNITED FRONT, PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK SAID IN AN INTERVIEW BROADCAST OVER SWEDISH TELEVISION. PRINCE SIHANOUK TOLD A REPORTER IN PEKING, WHERE HE RESIDES, THAT HE HAD HAD SECRET CONTACTS WITH MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT. AMONG THOSE WHO HAD INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO JOIN THE UNITED FRONT WERE GENERALS SISOWATH SIRIK MATAK AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ, BOTH MEMBERS OF THE HIGH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. THE PRINCE PROPOSED TO EXPAND HIS GOVERNMENT TO INCLUDE "SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RIGHT BUT EXCLUDING RIGHTIST TRAITORS."

3. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS RED KHMER PARTNERS HAD NOT
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YET APPROVED THE PROPOSAL. THE TWO GENERALS HAD SENT

HIM SECRET ORAL MESSAGES THROUGH FRIENDS, PRINCE SIHANOUK SAID, ADDING THAT THEY HAD "NOT YET RECEIVED THE MISSION OF THEIR MASTERS, THE AMERICANS....WHO CONSTITUTE AN OBSTACLE TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN CAMBODIA."

4. "THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE CAMBODIA'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS THROUGH RECONCILIATION IS TO DISSOLVE THE ILLEGAL GOVERNMENT IN PHNOM PENH, WHOSE MEMBERS CAN JOIN THE CAMBODIA UNITED FRONT", THE PRINCE SAID.

END OF QUOTE.

5. COMMENT: AFP, AS OCCASIONALLY IN PAST, MAY HAVE SOMEWHAT DISTORTED OVERALL EFFECT OF SIHANOUK INTERVIEW BY SELECTED EXCERPTING. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS INTERESTING TO SPECULATE ON SIHANOUK MOTIVES FOR THIS STATEMENT.

6. I MIGHT BE SIMPLE TACTIC TO SOW DISCORD AMONG GKR RANKS AND SUSPICION IN MINDS OF SOME OF ITS LEADERSHIP, NOTABLY LON NOL. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT MAY BE INTENDED AS A SIGNAL THAT SIHANOUK, AT LEAST, IF NOT THE KC LEADERSHIP, IS WILLING TO CONSIDER "REHABILITATION" OF INDIVIDUAL GKR LEADERS, EVEN SOME ON THE LIST OF THE SEVEN TRAITORS SO OFTEN CHANTED IN THE FUNK/KC LITURGY, IN MANEUVERING TOWARD SOME POLITICAL SOLUTION ORCHESTRATED OF COURSE BY SIHANOUK. HE HAS LEFT HIMSELF THE OUT OF SPECIFYING THAT THE ACCEPTABILITY OF SUCH REHABILITATION HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE KC PARTNERS.

DEAN

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